

## Topic of the Month

### On-Farm Dry Matter Testing

Getting the right amount of each type of feed into the total mixed ration (TMR) mixer is critical to creating a balanced ration. Everyone knows that. But to do it, you have to know the dry matter content of ingredients, especially forages stored in bunkers unprotected from the weather.

While university nutrition specialists recommend weekly testing for forage dry matter, it's a job that is seldom done that often. Typically, dry matters are checked once or twice month at most. Yet research from Penn State shows corn silage dry matter can vary widely—by as much as 10 percentage points over the course of a day or two. Even two or three percentage points can make a difference in the actual amount of dry matter feed a cow is offered and consumes, says Mathew Hann, a dairy educator with Penn State.

"If a ration calls for 50 lb. of corn silage on an as-fed basis and dry matter (DM) is assumed to be 33%, 16.5 lb. of corn silage DM will be fed," he says. "For each one-point deviation of the actual percent dry matter from the assumed percent dry matter, the dairy farmer will over or under feed 0.5 lb. of corn silage per cow per day. If the actual dry matter of the corn silage is 28%, the cows will only receive 14 lb. of corn silage on a dry matter basis."

## Commodity Futures

Corn(May) as of April 28	\$3.58
Soybeans(May) as of April 28	\$9.45
Soybean meal(May) as April 28	\$311.70
Cheese (April) as of April 28	\$1.49
Class III (Apr) as of April 28	\$15.17
Class III (May) as of April 28	\$15.35
Class III (June) as of April 28	\$15.47

## Practice News

### Sustained Release Dewormer

White Oak Veterinary Clinic can arrange to have the sustained release de-wormer Longrange shipped to your farm. This product is labelled for use in beef, and gives protection against the major intestinal parasites for up to 120 to 150 days. The sustained release characteristic of this product removes the need to deworm cattle twice during the pasture season. To order this product contact Lori at White Oak Veterinary Clinic.

## In the News

### TRUMP TRADE POLICY

*from CDE Dairy Market and Management Update*

The Trump Administration challenged Canada's Decision to change its milk pricing policy, an act that left at least 75 dairy farms in Wisconsin and surrounding states suddenly without a milk market. The decision sparked trade tensions between the US and Canada, with the Trump Administration placing a 20-percent tax on Canadian lumber imports.

### May Milk Production

*from CDE Dairy Market and Management Update*

US milk production was up 1.7 percent year-over-year to 18.7 billion pounds in March, according to the latest USDA Milk Production report. Cow numbers grew 15,000 head from February and 59,000 head above a year ago to 9.380 million cows, a 20-year record. Milk production per cow also grew, up 21 pounds, or 1.0 percent, to 1,995 pounds in the month of March. Pennsylvania's 3.0-percent increase in milk production was led entirely by per-cow milk production, which jumped 4 percent, or 70 pounds, year over year to 1,840 pounds. Cow numbers in the commonwealth fell 5,000 head from a year ago to 525,000 head.

## Upcoming Events

Somerset County Jackpot Show will be held at the fairgrounds in Meyersdale, PA on May 6 with weighing in at 7-9 AM and the show starting at 11 AM. For information call Annette Knotts 814-233-3811